

BLABY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1951.

H. TEMPLE PHILLIPS,  
M.D.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.I.M., D.C.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health,

and

JOHN J. GALSORTHY,  
M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,  
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

June, 1952.

Council Offices,  
Warborough,  
Leicestershire.



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BLADY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

(As composed 31st December, 1951)

Mr. T. H. H. Potter (Chairman of the Committee),  
 Mr. F. G. Butlin (Vice-Chairman),  
 Mr. T. J. Arnold,  
 Mr. J. H. Dent,  
 Mr. A. A. Bishop,  
 Mr. S. Callington,  
 Mr. W. Coley,  
 Mr. A. E. Dalby,  
 Mr. V. E. H. Derry,  
 Mr. F. M. Griffin,  
 Mr. J. W. Herrick,  
 Mr. A. Pedley,  
 Mrs. D. K. Pope,  
 Mr. G. W. Sharpe,  
 Mr. T. H. Smith,  
 Mr. J. Snape,  
 Mr. F. E. Swinfen,  
 Mr. G. A. Underwood, J.P.,  
 Mr. F. H. Webb, M.C., (Chairman of the Council),  
 Mr. W. Wedge,  
 Mr. L. Wells,  
 Mr. H. Yates.

Public Health Department

Officers and Staff.

Medical Officer of Health:

C. Killick Millard, M.D., D.Sc., D.P.H., (resigned 30th June, 1951),  
 H. Temple Phillips, M.D.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,  
 D.I.H., D.C.H. (appointed 1st July, 1951).

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

John J. Galsworthy, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

A. J. Slipp, M.S.I.A.,  
 R. R. Blaylock, M.S.I.A.

Clerks:

Mrs. M. Jones (part-time, resigned 31st May, 1951),  
 Miss C. M. Embrough (resigned 24th September, 1951),  
 Mrs. S. Q. Tipler (part-time),  
 Miss S. H. Carter.

Rodent Operator and General Assistant:

G. E. Hunt.

June 1952.

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Marborough,  
Leicestershire.

To the Chairman and Members of the Blaby Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the annual report on the health of your district for the year 1951.

I was only your Medical Officer of Health for the second half of the year under review, having been appointed to succeed Dr. C. Killick Millard on 1st July, 1951.

It was with the deepest regret that we learned of the death of Dr. Millard on 7th March, 1952. He was born on 14th August, 1870, being the son of the Revd. C. S. Millard, Rector of Costock, Nottinghamshire. He obtained his first medical qualification at Edinburgh in 1892. He worked for six years at the Birmingham Fever Hospital, being Medical Superintendent for the latter part of this period, and was appointed Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Burton-on-Trent in 1899. Two years later he became Medical Officer of Health to the City of Leicester, and held this post for thirty-four years until his retirement in 1935. He was President of the Society of Medical Officers of Health in 1932. He emerged from professional retirement in 1940 to become Medical Officer of Health to this authority, and also to the Lutterworth Rural District Council. There must be very few, if any, who can have equalled his long and distinguished career in the public health service. He will be long remembered with the greatest affection by his colleagues - and indeed, by all who knew him. I myself count it a great privilege to have known him and to have succeeded him as Medical Officer of Health to the Blaby Rural District Council.

In previous years the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Sanitary Inspector have made separate annual reports on their work, but this year it has been decided to combine the two reports. It is felt that this will avoid a certain amount of duplication, and will provide a more composite picture of the activities of the Public Health Department. I should like to place on record my appreciation of the splendid co-operation which I have received from the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his department. Mr. Galsworthy has gone out of his way to assist me in every way possible, and nothing has been too much trouble. My thanks are also due to my other fellow-officers and to the members of the Council for their unfailing help and support.

The report, I think, shows 1951 to have been a year of satisfactory, though not spectacular, progress. It is pleasing, from the public health point of view, to see the pail closets being converted to water closets. It has long been realised that pail closets facilitate the spread of disease by flies, and in this connection the following account of conditions at the beginning of the century (from "A History of English Public Health 1834-1939," by Professor W. M. Brazier) may be of interest. The author is speaking of infantile diarrhoea and its relation to the prevalence of flies and contamination of milk. "In the discussion on this subject, which went on for many years, the comparative statistics as between various towns were collected and quoted. Perhaps the most significant statistical comparison was that between Leicester and Nottingham. In the ninth decade of last century the rates of infantile mortality from diarrhoea in these towns were equal; but as the years went by,

Nottingham retained most of its pail closets while Leicester replaced them with water closets. Either post hoc or propter hoc Leicester's mortality rate amongst infants declined to about half by the earlier years of the present century, while that of Nottingham remained substantially the same."

As regards housing, very difficult problems are constantly arising. There are in this district, as in most, a certain number of old properties which are not really fit for habitation. From time to time such houses become vacant, and the Council is faced with the alternative of either allowing fresh tenants to enter, or of taking steps to close the house under the Housing Act, 1936. Hitherto the Council, having regard to the present housing shortage, has usually been reluctant to close any houses, on the principle that any house is better than no house. This is understandable, but I personally feel that where a house is incurably damp, ill-lighted, and ill-ventilated, we should consider carefully whether we are really doing the prospective tenants any true kindness by allowing them to take up residence in such a house. To perpetuate indefinitely such insanitary conditions in the district is to my mind a big price to pay for a small amount of additional housing accommodation.

The administration of the public health and allied services involves the outlay of vast sums of public money, and we may sometimes be tempted to wonder just how much we get in return for all this expenditure. In conclusion, I should like to quote the words of Sir George Newman (Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, 1921), which I think aptly answer this question. "Public expenditure on national health is like expenditure on a life-boat or a fire engine; even more, it is like a long-term investment. It yields its interest with absolute certainty, a thousand-fold, but only in the course of years and sometimes in the course of generations. It is money hidden in maternity, in good schools, in pure food, in clean streets, in sanitary houses, in an abundant water supply, in dispensaries, hospitals, and sanatoria, and in the vast network of a sanitary and protective cordon in every village and city of the land. Its efforts are unappreciated until they are withdrawn. Yet without this investment the nation is bankrupt."

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. Temple Phillips,

Medical Officer of Health.

# GENERAL STATISTICS - 1951

|                                    |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Area of District                   | 32,583 acres |
| Estimated Mid-Year Population      | 39,520       |
| Number of Occupied Houses          | 11,971       |
| Rateable Value (1st January, 1951) | £176,363     |
| Sum Represented by 1d. Rate        | £680         |

## VITAL STATISTICS

|  |              | Blaby 1951 |        |       | Blaby 1950 |        |       |
|--|--------------|------------|--------|-------|------------|--------|-------|
|  |              | Male       | Female | Total | Male       | Female | Total |
| LIVE<br>BIRTHS   | Legitimate   | 285        | 281    | 566   | 276        | 291    | 567   |
|  | Illegitimate | 6          | 11     | 17    | 10         | 8      | 18    |
|  | Total        | 291        | 292    | 583   | 286        | 299    | 585   |
| STILL<br>BIRTHS  | Legitimate   | 10         | 8      | 18    | 5          | 5      | 10    |
|  | Illegitimate | 0          | 0      | 0     | 1          | 2      | 3     |
|  | Total        | 10         | 8      | 18    | 6          | 7      | 13    |
| DEATHS   |              | 207        | 189    | 396   | 188        | 170    | 358   |
| DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER<br>1 YEAR OF AGE<br>(None were illegitimate) |              | 11         | 5      | 16    | 3          | 9      | 12    |
| DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER<br>4 WEEKS OF AGE                            |              | 8          | 1      | 9     | 2          | 8      | 10    |

## RATES CALCULATED FROM THE ABOVE FIGURES

|  | Blaby<br>1951 | Blaby<br>1950 | England<br>& Wales<br>1951 |
|--|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population   | 14.8          | 14.9          | 15.5                       |
| Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population  | 0.46          | 0.33          | 0.36                       |
| Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population  | 10.0          | 9.2           | 12.5                       |
| Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 Population                                    | 10.3          | 9.5           | -                          |
| Infant Mortality Rate (i.e. Deaths Under<br>1 Year per 1,000 Live Births)    | 27.5          | 20.5          | 29.6                       |
| Neonatal Mortality Rate (i.e. Deaths Under<br>4 Weeks per 1,000 Live Births) | 15.4          | 17.2          | -                          |

The corrected death rate is obtained by the use of a correction factor for age and sex supplied by the Registrar General. The figures for England and Wales 1951 and for Blaby 1950 are given for comparison.



# COMMENT ON STATISTICS

## Population.

This is an increase of 390 over last year's figure. The population has shown a steady increase each year since 1945. The average density of population for the district works out at 775 persons per square mile. This compares with a figure of 750 per square mile for the country (England and Wales) as a whole.

## Birth Rate.

This has been falling since 1947, but the drop this year has been less than in the preceding years.

## Deaths.

The chief causes of death were:- diseases of heart and circulation 151, cancer 64, vascular lesions of nervous system 49, bronchitis 17, influenza 14, tuberculosis 12, pneumonia 10. A more detailed analysis of the causes of death is given in the following table, in which the deaths are classified under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death, 1948.

Classification of Causes of Death in Blaby R.D.C.

|   | 1951 |        |       | 1950  |
|---|------|--------|-------|-------|
|   | Male | Female | Total | Total |
| 1. Tuberculosis, respiratory              | 4    | 5      | 9     | 10    |
| 2. Tuberculosis, other                    | 1    | 2      | 3     | 0     |
| 3. Syphilitic disease                     | 1    | 0      | 1     | 2     |
| 4. Diphtheria                             | 0    | 0      | 0     | 0     |
| 5. Whooping cough                         | 0    | 0      | 0     | 0     |
| 6. Meningococcal infections               | 0    | 0      | 0     | 0     |
| 7. Acute poliomyelitis                    | 0    | 0      | 0     | 1     |
| 8. Measles                                | 0    | 0      | 0     | 1     |
| 9. Other infective & parasitic diseases   | 1    | 1      | 2     | 0     |
| 10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach           | 5    | 3      | 8     | 13    |
| 11. " " lung, bronchus                    | 8    | 3      | 11    | 8     |
| 12. " " breast                            | 0    | 6      | 6     | 8     |
| 13. " " uterus                            | -    | 3      | 3     | 4     |
| 14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms | 19   | 17     | 36    | 51    |
| 15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia                 | 2    | 0      | 2     | 1     |
| 16. Diabetes                              | 0    | 1      | 1     | 3     |
| 17. Vascular lesions of nervous system    | 22   | 27     | 49    | 53    |
| 18. Coronary disease, angina              | 26   | 17     | 43    | 28    |
| 19. Hypertension with heart disease       | 10   | 13     | 23    | 5     |
| 20. Other heart disease                   | 33   | 39     | 72    | 73    |
| 21. Other circulatory disease             | 5    | 8      | 13    | 5     |
| 22. Influenza                             | 6    | 8      | 14    | 1     |
| 23. Pneumonia                             | 6    | 4      | 10    | 8     |
| 24. Bronchitis                            | 11   | 6      | 17    | 14    |
| 25. Other diseases of respiratory system  | 6    | 2      | 8     | 5     |
| 26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum         | 3    | 1      | 4     | 2     |
| 27. Gastritis, enteritis, & diarrhoea     | 1    | 1      | 2     | 3     |
| 28. Nephritis and nephrosis               | 4    | 1      | 5     | 5     |
| 29. Hyperplasia of prostate               | 3    | -      | 3     | 4     |
| 30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion       | -    | 0      | 0     | 0     |
| 31. Congenital malformations              | 2    | 0      | 2     | 2     |
| 32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases  | 23   | 20     | 43    | 38    |
| 33. Motor Vehicle Accidents               | 2    | 1      | 3     | 1     |
| 34. All other accidents                   | 3    | 0      | 3     | 6     |
| 35. Suicide                               | 0    | 0      | 0     | 2     |
| 36. Homicide & operations of war          | 0    | 0      | 0     | 1     |
| ALL CAUSES                                | 207  | 189    | 396   | 358   |

It will be seen that diseases of the heart and circulation account for far more deaths than any other single cause, and the number of deaths certified under this heading has been increasing of recent years. This increase is partly explained by the fact that the expectation of life is rising - in other words, that people are now living longer than they used to. Many people now die at a ripe old age of heart failure who in former times might have succumbed from some other cause at an earlier age. It is generally agreed, however, that, although many of the deaths certified under this heading are due to the natural "wearing out" process which occurs in old age, there has in addition been a true increase in the incidence of heart disease. This may well be attributable to strain engendered by the rush and bustle of modern life, but unfortunately such factors are not readily controllable. Insurance companies tell us that gross overweight in middle age affects adversely the expectation of life, and the intelligent regular use of the weight scales is a habit which might with advantage be more widely practised.

The increased death rate from cancer has frequently been commented upon by the late Dr. Killick Millard in past annual reports. The figure for 1951 is fortunately somewhat lower than that for 1950 (84), which was the highest ever recorded in this district. There is not the slightest doubt that many of these deaths could be averted if people could be educated to seek medical help promptly when they notice anything wrong, instead of delaying until the condition had become incurable. Hospital statistics show that for most forms of cancer there is an average delay of about six months between the patient's first noticing symptoms and his attending for treatment.

### Infant Mortality.

This is higher than that for last year, but a considerable fluctuation from year to year is only to be expected where the rate is based on a comparatively small number of infant deaths. The rate still remains lower than that for the country as a whole. The decline in infant mortality over the past half century represents one of the most remarkable achievements of preventive medicine. Prior to 1900, out of every 100 infants born, fifteen died before reaching their first birthday; now less than three die during their first year. An examination of the returns for infantile mortality shows that, while there has been a marked overall fall, this has occurred chiefly in the deaths which take place after the first four weeks of life. The fall in the death rate during the first month (i.e. the neonatal mortality) has occurred to a much lesser degree, and these neonatal deaths now account for more than half the total infant deaths, suggesting that the causes of mortality in the first month differ from those which operate later. Many deaths in the first four weeks of life are due to prematurity and congenital defects, conditions which may not be easily preventable.

The infant mortality rates for the past twenty-five years, both for the Blaby Rural District and for England and Wales, are shown graphically on the opposite page. It will be seen that the rate for the country as a whole has shown a steady decline over the years. That for Blaby has similarly declined, though it has shown more fluctuation from year to year, being based on only small numbers of infant deaths each year. The Blaby rate has remained fairly consistently lower than that for England and Wales.

The following were the causes of infant deaths during 1951:- prematurity 3, congenital defects 2, difficult labour 2, pneumonia and bronchitis 4, other infections 2, other causes 3.

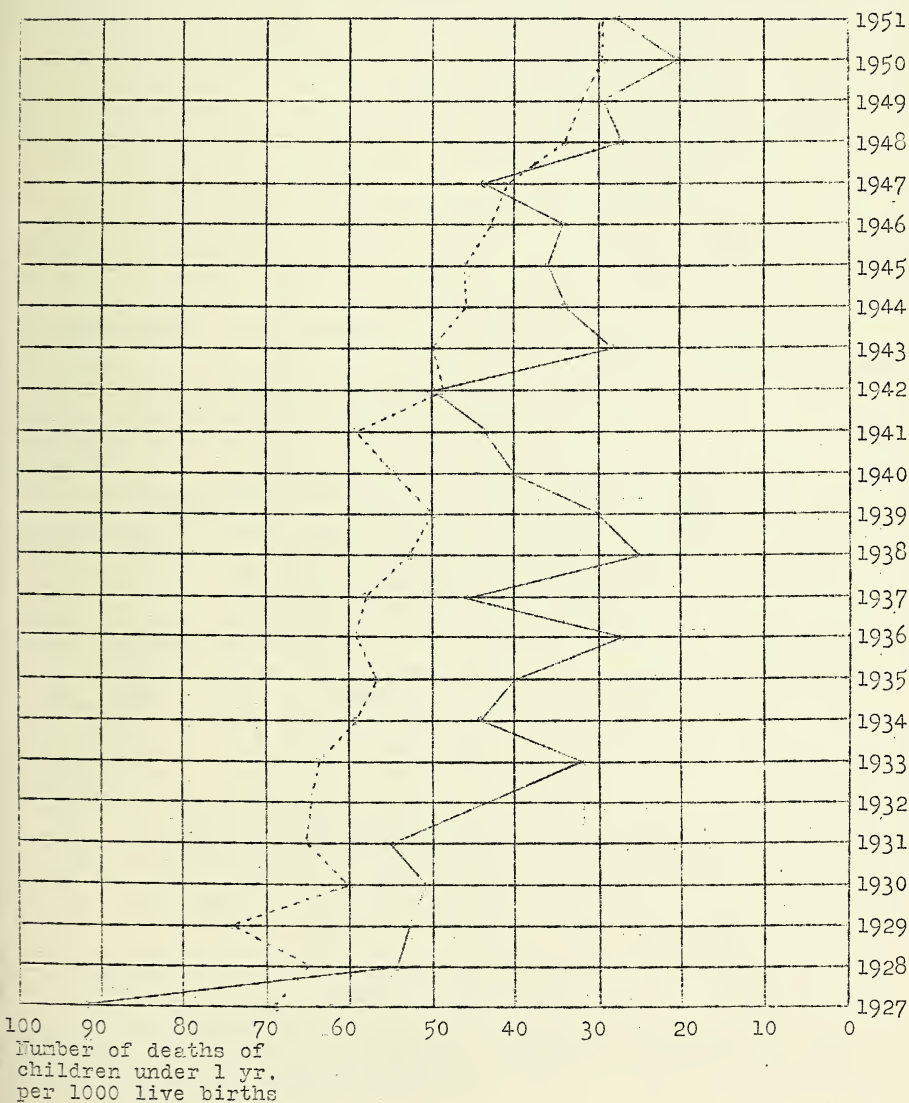


# GRAPH SHOWING THE DECLINE IN INFANT MORTALITY

OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS

Blaby R.D.C. ———

England & Wales -----



# INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following are the final corrected figures for notifiable diseases during 1951:-

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Scarlet Fever           | 34            |
| Whooping Cough          | 176           |
| Diphtheria              | 0             |
| Measles                 | 712           |
| Acute Pneumonia         | 38            |
| Cerebrospinal Fever     | 1             |
| Acute Poliomyelitis     | 1 (paralytic) |
| Dysentery               | 33            |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum   | 0             |
| Puerperal Pyrexia       | 1             |
| Enteric Fever           | 1             |
| Food Poisoning          | 10            |
| Erysipelas              | 4             |
| Tuberculosis, Pulmonary | 23            |
| Tuberculosis, Other     | 10            |

The following table shows the incidence of these diseases over the past ten years:-

|                | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Sc. Fever      | 69   | 63   | 134  | 94   | 70   | 78   | 61   | 70   | 28   | 34   |
| Wh. Cough      | 12   | 151  | 43   | 27   | 140  | 78   | 175  | 197  | 118  | 176  |
| Diphtheria     | 30   | 11   | 12   | 16   | 8    | 5    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Measles        | 312  | 489  | 32   | 657  | 23   | 461  | 164  | 611  | 251  | 712  |
| Pneumonia      | 34   | 23   | 20   | 17   | 23   | 35   | 24   | 29   | 22   | 38   |
| C. S. Fever    | 1    | 6    | 3    | 5    | 4    | 3    | 2    | 1    | 0    | 1    |
| Poliomyelitis  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 7    | 0    | 6    | 19   | 1    |
| Dysentery      | 0    | 0    | 7    | 4    | 8    | 0    | 1    | 2    | 73   | 33   |
| Oph. Neonat.   | 0    | 1    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    |
| Puerp. Pyrexia | 4    | 4    | 3    | 3    | 1    | 2    | 1    | 1    | 0    | 1    |
| Enteric Fever  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 3    | 0    | 0    | 2    | 0    | 0    | 1    |
| Food Poisoning |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 5    | 10   |
| Erysipelas     | 21   | 9    | 14   | 15   | 12   | 3    | 5    | 11   | 4    | 4    |
| TB - Pulmonary |      | 24   | 35   | 18   | 18   | 11   | 19   | 30   | 20   | 23   |
| TB - Other     |      | 14   | 7    | 3    | 4    | 14   | 11   | 7    | 5    | 10   |

### Diphtheria.

For the third year in succession, there were no confirmed cases of diphtheria in the district. One case was notified, but the diagnosis was not confirmed. The decline in the incidence of diphtheria is well shown in the table on the opposite page. Gratifying though this reduction is, we must be on our guard against becoming complacent about diphtheria, since it is only by maintaining an adequate level of immunisation that we can hope to remain free from outbreaks in the future.

Arrangements for immunisation are in the hands of the Leicestershire County Council. The following table shows the numbers of children immunised in this district during the past five years. It will be seen that the numbers are being fairly well maintained.

| Year | Numbers of Children Immunised |        |       |              |
|------|-------------------------------|--------|-------|--------------|
|      | Under 5                       | 5 - 14 | Total | Re-immunised |
| 1947 | 568                           | 70     | 638   | 170          |
| 1948 | 610                           | 43     | 653   | 410          |
| 1949 | 510                           | 28     | 538   | 373          |
| 1950 | 423                           | 37     | 460   | 263          |
| 1951 | 461                           | 11     | 472   | 403          |

### Measles.

The incidence of measles was the highest since this disease was made notifiable in 1940. The majority of the cases occurred between the beginning of April and the end of July. The tendency of measles to occur in epidemic form every second year is clearly seen in the table opposite.

### Acute Poliomyelitis.

Only one case occurred during 1951, this being a fifteen year old girl at Stoney Stanton.

### Dysentery.

Seventeen cases occurred in the early months of the year, being the aftermath of the epidemic of 1950. A small but troublesome epidemic of Sonne dysentery occurred on the Dominion Estate, Glenfield, during the month of December, 1951, there being sixteen confirmed cases.

### Enteric Fever.

A case of typhoid fever occurred at the end of January, 1951, the patient being a five year old girl at Braunstone. The source of infection was traced to a carrier at Penzance, Cornwall, where the family had spent Christmas.

### Food Poisoning.

Three outbreaks of food poisoning were reported during the year, with a total of ten cases. There were no deaths.

The first outbreak occurred at Cosby on 11th October. Two cases were reported from one household. The illness was suspected to have been caused by the consumption of tinned mince-meat. This had been opened for several days, having been given to the patients by a neighbour who was going on holiday. Bacteriological confirmation was not obtained. The symptoms were suggestive of staphylococcal food poisoning, and, if the mincemeat was responsible, it had probably become contaminated after having been opened.

The second outbreak consisted of three cases reported from one household in Whetstone during the third week of November. The cases were mild, and although bacteriological tests were carried out, no cause was found.

The third outbreak consisted of five cases notified from Glenfield at the end of November. These were almost certainly cases of Sonne dysentery, as there was a small epidemic of this disease in the immediate vicinity at about the same time. As, however, bacteriological confirmation was not obtained, these cases were notified as food poisoning.

### Tuberculosis.

The numbers of cases recorded during the year are in keeping with those of recent years. The responsibility for the care of the tuberculous is now divided. The clinical treatment of patients is arranged by the Regional Hospital Board, while prevention and after-care are mainly the concern of the County Council. The Chest Physicians are employed jointly by these two authorities. Your Medical Officer of Health co-operates with the County chest department, but the duties of this Council in connection with tuberculosis are now comparatively small, being practically limited to such environmental matters as dealing with recommendations for re-housing. One family was re-housed on account of tuberculosis during 1951.

### SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Although these services are outside the control of this Council, the following brief particulars are given in order to present a more complete picture of the health services of the district. I desire to express my indebtedness to the County Medical Officer, Dr. G. H. Gibson, for his advice and help which have always been freely given in matters affecting the health of the district. There exists between your Public Health Department and the County Health Department a happy spirit of co-operation, which is strengthened by the fact that your Medical Officer of Health is also on the staff of the Leicestershire County Council.

### Care of Mothers and Young Children.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held regularly at the following places and times:-

|                        |   |                       |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Blaby                  | Baptist Schoolroom  | 1st & 3rd Tues., 2.15 |
| Braunstone             | Trinity Church Room,<br>Marborough Rd., Leic.             | 2nd & 4th Wed., 2.30  |
| Cosby                  | Methodist Schoolroom                                      | 1st & 3rd Wed., 2.30  |
| Enderby                | Mission Room  | 1st & 3rd Wed., 2.0   |
| Glenfield              | Wesleyan Rooms  | 2nd & 4th Tues., 2.30 |
| Leicester<br>Forest E. | St. Mary's Hall,<br>St. Mary's Avenue,<br>Braunstone Lane | 1st & 3rd Mon., 2.0   |
| Marborough             | Robjohn Hall  | 2nd & 4th Wed., 2.0   |
| Stoney<br>Stanton      | Working Men's Club<br>and Institute                       | 2nd & 4th Tues., 2.0  |
| Whetstone              | Congregational<br>Schoolroom                              | 2nd & 4th Tues., 2.30 |

#### Care of Premature Infants.

Provision is made for the free loan to mothers by the County Council of special equipment for the nursing of premature babies. This equipment is stored at a central ambulance depot, for despatch where necessary by ambulance. In addition, the County midwives receive special instruction in the care of premature infants.

#### Unmarried Mothers and their Children.

The County Council makes arrangements with the St. Saviour's Diocesan Maternity Home, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, and with other homes, for the reception of unmarried mothers from the County. Three such cases were dealt with from the Blaby district during 1951.

#### Midwifery.

The midwifery service in the district is provided by whole-time midwives employed by the County Council, and also by nurse-midwives who are employed by the Leicestershire County Nursing Association under agency arrangements.

#### Health Visiting.

The health visitors employed by the County Council attend the infant welfare centres, and spend much of their time in visiting mothers in their own homes. Their work, however, is not confined to the care of children, and some have special duties in connection with such things as tuberculosis and diabetes. By her personal contacts in the home, the health visitor is in a unique position to carry out health education.



### Home Nursing.

This work is carried out by the Leicestershire County Nursing Association on behalf of the County Council. The greater part of the nursing staff also act as midwives under the District Nursing Associations.

### Ambulance Service.

The whole of the ambulance services for the County are now under the direct control of the County Council. A highly efficient service is provided, and each ambulance is fitted with radio equipment which enables the driver to carry on a two-way conversation with the controller at the ambulance headquarters in Leicester.

### Domestic Help Service.

This service, which was started in 1948, has proved very successful, and it is clear that the "home helps" supply a very real need in the community.

The above is, of course, by no means a complete list of the services provided by the County Council. There are also, to mention but a few others, the mental health service, welfare services for blind and handicapped persons, and the school health service.

## LABORATORY SERVICES.

Laboratory facilities are provided for this Council by the Public Health Laboratory, Groby Road, Leicester. A large number of investigations were carried out during the year, including examinations of water, milk, and ice cream, and faeces examinations in connection with outbreaks or suspected cases of dysentery and the like. I wish to thank Dr. Gillespie, the Director, for his co-operation and help, which have always been readily forthcoming.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47 of this Act makes provision for the removal to suitable premises of persons who

(a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm, or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and

(b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

If the Medical Officer of Health certifies in writing to the local authority that he is satisfied that such conditions exist, the local authority may apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an order for the removal of the person to a suitable hospital or other place.

It did not prove necessary to deal with any cases under this section during 1951.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year 1951

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Rural District Council of Blaby.

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my ninth Annual Report upon the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspector's Department.

In previous years I have made a separate report to the Council, but as your Medical Officer of Health is required to include certain information relating to the sanitary circumstances of the District in his Annual Report, in order to avoid duplication, on this occasion the reports are being combined, with the result that a more complete picture of the health and sanitary conditions of the District should be obtained.

Whereas in general, good progress is being maintained in the improvement of water supplies, food hygiene, and general sanitary conditions, the position with regard to the repair of houses is still most unsatisfactory, and in that part of the report relating to housing, I have been compelled to comment on the difficulties being experienced in this direction.

I feel that I should express my pleasure in having the co-operation and trust of Dr. H. Temple Phillips, Medical Officer of Health since July 1951, and to acknowledge the assistance and co-operation given by other officers of the Council, and the staff of the Department in particular.

Finally I should like to thank the members of the Council for their support and interest throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN J. GALSWORTHY.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

26th June 1952.

# 1. WATER SUPPLY

## Mains Water Supplies

Of the 23 Parishes in the Blaby Rural District, 18 have mains water supplies.

Leicester Corporation Water Department supply the following 13 Parishes -

|            |               |              |            |
|------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| Braunstone | Countesthorpe | Glen Parva   | Narborough |
| Blaby      | Enderby       | Huncote      | Whetstone  |
| Cosby      | Glenfield     | Kirby Muxloe | Kilby      |

Blaby Rural District Council supply the 5 parishes of Stoney Stanton, Elmesthorpe, Sapcote, Sharnford and Wigston Parva.

The Parish of Croft is provided with a mains supply by the Croft Granite, Brick and Concrete Co. Ltd.

During the year, the Leicester Corporation extended the water main to serve the Parish of Kilby.

## Quality of Mains Water Supplies

Samples of water are regularly taken from the three public supplies of piped water in the District and submitted for full chemical analysis, whilst check samples are periodically taken for bacteriological examination to ensure that the supplies are maintained at a satisfactory degree of purity.

## Analysis of Mains Water Supplies

| Examination     | Samples Taken | Satisfactory | Not Satisfactory |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| Chemical        | 21            | 21           | 0                |
| Bacteriological | 27            | 27           | 0                |

|                            | Leicester Corporation | Blaby R.D.C.        | Croft Granite Co.   |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                            | Parts per 100,000     |                     |                     |
| Total Solids               | 12.0                  | 104.0               | 194.0               |
| Loss on ignition           | 2.0                   | 30.0                | 34.0                |
| Free Ammonia               | 0.0                   | 0.0                 | 0.0                 |
| Albuminoid Ammonia         | 0.004                 | 0.004               | 0.006               |
| Nitrogen                   | 0.082                 | 0.082               | 0.205               |
| Oxygen consumed in 4 hours | 0.050                 | 0.06                | 0.083               |
| Chlorine                   | 1.2                   | 3.0                 | 5.6                 |
| Hardness                   | 6.0                   | 63.0                | 80.0                |
|                            | pH 8.0                | pH 8.2              | pH 8.3              |
| Lead and Copper            | Absent                | Absent              | Absent              |
| Bacterial Count @ 37°C     | 5 organisms per CC    | 16 organisms per CC | 30 organisms per CC |
| " " 22°C                   | 15 " " "              | 107 " " "           | 180 " " "           |
| Bacillus Coli @ 37°C       | Absent in 10 CC's     | Absent in 10 CC's   | Absent in 10 CC's   |
| " " 44°C                   | " " " "               | " " " "             | " " " "             |

## Shortage of Supply

Lack of pressure in the supply by the Leicester Corporation causes shortage of water in certain parts of the District, particularly in Enderby, the Winchester Road area of Blaby and Countesthorpe, and part of Glen Hills area of Glen Parva.

These affected areas are on higher ground to the south of the City of Leicester, and as the supply comes principally from the north, the demand in the City at present is no doubt partly responsible for the reduced pressure of the supply to these particular areas.

The shortage of water is particularly noticeable over week-ends and on Mondays, and it is highly probable that the demand for water for domestic washing purposes contributes towards the lack of pressure.

It is understood that a new water main is being laid to serve an area on the south of the City, and when this has been completed the supply should be improved.

A new supply reservoir is proposed to be constructed at Enderby, but sanction to proceed is still awaited from the Ministry.

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During the year 74 dwellings formerly served by stand-pipes were provided with separate indoor water taps.

### Well Water Supply

Five Parishes in the District still rely principally on well water supply.

Aston Flamville, Leicester Forest West, Lubbesthorpe, Potters Marston and Thurlaston.

With the exception of Thurlaston, however, these parishes are comparatively sparsely populated, but even so, piped water supplies serve certain dwellings in these parishes.

A revised scheme for a mains supply to Aston Flamville from the Sharnford mains has been submitted to the Ministry, whilst the scheme for a mains supply to Thurlaston has already been approved, but is held up awaiting approval by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government of the Leicester Corporation's proposed new service reservoir at Enderby, from whence the supply is to be obtained.

### Examination of Well Water 1951

| SAMPLES SATISFACTORY |                 | SAMPLES NOT SATISFACTORY |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Chemical             | Bacteriological | Chemical                 | Bacteriological |
| 1                    | 6               | 5                        | 1               |

One well was cleansed during the year. 53 dwellings were provided with mains water supply thus replacing polluted supplies from 28 wells which were subsequently closed.

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The following tables indicate the present water supply position in the District and in the various Parishes -

| WATER SUPPLY from MAINS      |                |                        |                | WATER SUPPLY from WELLS      |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Approximate number of houses |                | Estimated Population   |                | Approximate Number of Houses | Estimated Population |
| 11,410                       |                | 37,520                 |                | 555                          | 1,900                |
| Direct supply to house       | By Stand-pipes | Direct supply to house | By Stand-pipes |                              |                      |
| 10,993                       | 417            | 36,200                 | 1,320          |                              |                      |

1951

| PARISH                | Number of Occupied Premises | Estimated Population | Number of Houses on Mains Supply | Number of Houses with Water Direct to house | Number of Houses Served by Standpipes | Number of Houses Served by Wells |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Aston Flamville       | 35                          | 150                  | 8                                | 8   | -                                     | 27                               |
| Blaby                 | 946                         | 3127                 | 929                              | 879   | 50                                    | 18                               |
| Braunstone            | 2817                        | 7954                 | 2817                             | 2816  | 1                                     | -                                |
| Cosby                 | 464                         | 1729                 | 448                              | 439   | 9                                     | 16                               |
| Countesthorpe         | 640                         | 2209                 | 630                              | 596   | 34                                    | 10                               |
| Croft                 | 318                         | 1159                 | 313                              | 247   | 66                                    | 5                                |
| Elmesthorpe           | 103                         | 445                  | 83                               | 83  | -                                     | 20                               |
| Enderby               | 1093                        | 3434                 | 1086                             | 1034  | 52                                    | 7                                |
| Glenfield             | 1101                        | 3209                 | 1093                             | 1044  | 49                                    | 8                                |
| Glen Parva            | 987                         | 3094                 | 983                              | 983   | -                                     | 4                                |
| Huncote               | 181                         | 654                  | 161                              | 145   | 16                                    | 22                               |
| Kilby                 | 85                          | 262                  | -                                | -   | -                                     | 85                               |
| Kirby Muxloe          | 876                         | 2842                 | 853                              | 852   | 1                                     | 13                               |
| Leicester Forest West | 14                          | 58                   | 2                                | 2   | -                                     | 12                               |
| Lubbesthorpe          | 26                          | 77                   | 8                                | 8   | -                                     | 18                               |
| Narborough            | 763                         | 3891                 | 748                              | 746   | 2                                     | 15                               |
| Potters Marston       | 12                          | 47                   | 1                                | 1   | -                                     | 11                               |
| Sapcote               | 272                         | 841                  | 245                              | 232   | 13                                    | 28                               |
| Sharnford             | 166                         | 550                  | 128                              | 125   | 3                                     | 38                               |
| Stoney Stanton        | 422                         | 1437                 | 404                              | 323   | 81                                    | 18                               |
| Thurlaston            | 147                         | 538                  | -                                | -   | -                                     | 147                              |
| Whetstone             | 488                         | 1680                 | 468                              | 428   | 40                                    | 20                               |
| Wigston Parva         | 15                          | 33                   | 2                                | 2   | -                                     | 13                               |
| Total                 | 11,971                      | 39,420               | 11,410                           | 10,993                                      | 417                                   | 555                              |



## 2. SEWERAGE and DRAINAGE

The twelve largest villages in the District are provided with adequate public sewers, the sewage being dealt with at nine sewage disposal works.

Blaby and Whetstone, Braunston, Cosby and Narborough, Countesthorpe, Croft and Huncote, Enderby, Glenfield, Glen Parva, Kirby Muxloe.

Work is now in progress with the laying of new sewers for Stoney Stanton, Sapcote and Sharnford, together with the construction of a new sewage works.

Main drainage schemes for Kilby and Thurlaston have been submitted to the Ministry together with schemes for improvements and extensions to the sewage works serving Blaby and Whetstone, Countesthorpe, Enderby, and Glenfield.

Sewerage schemes for Wigston Parva and Elmeesthorpe have been deferred on account of cost.

### Glenfield - Dominion Estate

Foul sewers were laid during the year in Sports Road and the unmade-up part of Liberty Road, Glenfield under the Private Street Works Act. Notices were sent to the owners of 37 dwellings on these roads, requiring them to redrain to the new sewer. By the end of the year 21 dwellings had been connected to the sewer.

Due to unsatisfactory drainage to inadequate cesspools insanitary conditions prevail at many of the premises on the remaining unmade roads on this Estate, Tournament Road, Triumph Road, Treaty Road and part of Unity Road.

The County Council is dealing with a scheme for the sewerage of certain of these roads under the Private Street Works Act.

### Cesspools

Although 14 cesspools were abolished during the year, 5 new cesspools were constructed to take the drainage from new houses erected on roads where no foul sewers were available.

In general, cesspools cannot be considered to be a satisfactory method of drainage disposal, for although the Council has undertaken to empty cesspools to private dwellings in most parts of the District every three months, it is found that in the majority of cases the cesspools are of inadequate capacity and overflow within this period.

Such unsatisfactory conditions exist at groups of houses in various parts of the District, particularly where mains water supply is available, at Elmeesthorpe; Aston Lane, Aston Flamville; Willoughby Road, Countesthorpe; Cambridge Road, Cosby; Thurlaston Lane, Croft; Cambridge Road, Whetstone; Warwick Road, Whetstone; and Hinckley Road, Leicester Forest East, Kirby Muxloe.

Sewerage schemes for the re-drainage of groups of houses on Aston Lane, Aston Flamville, and Willoughby Road, Countesthorpe have already been prepared by the Engineer and Surveyor, and submitted for approval.

### Closet Conversions

Steady increase has been maintained in the rate of the conversion of pail closets to water closets.

To encourage owners to make such conversions, the Council, under the provisions of Sub-Section 4, Section 47, Public Health Act, 1936, upon application, allows a contribution towards the cost of half the actual cost of the work of conversion, but limiting the grant to a maximum of £7/10/- per conversion.

| Year | Number of conversions |
|------|-----------------------|
| 1945 | 43                    |
| 1946 | 88                    |
| 1947 | 120                   |
| 1948 | 124                   |
| 1949 | 140                   |
| 1950 | 177                   |
| 1951 | 233                   |

Applications received from owners for grants towards the cost of proposed conversions were 200 in 1951.

### Pail Closets

The approximate number of pail closets in the various parishes in the District at the end of 1951

|                       |                                  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Aston Flamville       | 16                               |
| Blaby                 | 46                               |
| Braunstone            | 5                                |
| Cosby                 | 21                               |
| Countesthorpe         | 46                               |
| Croft                 | 101                              |
| Elmesthorpe           | 13                               |
| Enderby               | 71                               |
| Glenfield             | 118 ( including Dominion Estate) |
| Glen Parva            | 3                                |
| Huncote               | 27                               |
| Kilby                 | 70                               |
| Kirby Muxloe          | 12                               |
| Leicester Forest West | 2                                |
| Lubbesthorpe          | 18                               |
| Narborough            | 22                               |
| Potters Marston       | 6                                |
| Sapcote               | 229                              |
| Sharnford             | 140                              |
| Stoney Stanton        | 350                              |
| Thurlaston            | 98                               |
| Whetstone             | 83                               |
| Wigston Parva         | 11                               |
|                       | <hr/>                            |
|                       | 1,508                            |
|                       | <hr/>                            |

When the new sewerage scheme for Stoney Stanton, Sapcote and Sharnford now in progress, is completed, several hundred pail closets will be converted to water closets with corresponding applications for conversion grants.

This will involve considerable demand on the general rate fund, and therefore every endeavour is being made to have the remaining pail closets in these parts of the District already sewerer converted to water closets as quickly as possible.

The majority of the remaining pail closets however in the sewerer parishes are at the lower graded dwellings and difficulty is often experienced in dealing with conversions at these type of properties.

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Pail closets throughout the District are emptied weekly by direct labour, by the Cleansing Department, and the contents disposed of by treatment at the Council's central tip, and occasionally on suitable agricultural land for manurial purposes.

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### Sanitary Accommodation in Schools

Pail closets at Huncote Junior School were converted during the year to water closets, and a scheme was proposed for the future conversion of the pail closets at the Infants School at the Church of England Schoolroom.

Additional and improved washing facilities were provided at Croft Junior School, necessitating partial re-drainage of the premises to the sewer.

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### 3. PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Cleansing Department is under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor.

House refuse is collected from all parishes in the District weekly and disposed of at one central tip by controlled tipping.

### Refuse Bins

Difficulty has been experienced in having defective dust-bins replaced by sound bins. In many cases owners of tenanted houses, with controlled rents have been extremely reluctant to provide new dust-bins, maintaining that in view of the uneconomical rents, the tenants should provide the bins.

Under the provisions of Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936, the Council may require either the owner or the occupier to provide a dust-bin. In recent years however, there have been several successful appeals by owners against notices served by Councils, and having regard to the present confused position, no statutory notices have been served by the Council in respect of the provision of dust-bins.

Upon a complaint being received, the tenant is advised of the present position, and in many cases agreement is reached between the landlord and tenant, and the bin provided.

### 4. SANITARY INSPECTION

The number of complaints recorded in the Register during the year was 310. Defects or nuisances totalling 472 were dealt with at 387 premises.

# Inspections and Revisits

|                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bakehouses                        | 12                            |
| Dairies                           | 35                            |
| Drainage Work                     | 2,381                         |
| Dwelling Houses                   | 1,385                         |
| Factories and Workplaces          | 95                            |
| Food Premises                     | 637                           |
| Infectious Disease Enquiries      | 322                           |
| Food Poisoning Enquiries          | 14                            |
| Keeping of Animals                | 33                            |
| Piggeries                         | 62                            |
| Moveable Dwellings                | 135                           |
| Refuse and Accumulations          | 95                            |
| Rodent Infestation                | 37 (excluding visits made by) |
| Schools                           | 13 (Rodent Operator)          |
| Shops                             | 7                             |
| Slaughterhouses (meat inspection) | 162                           |
| Smoke Nuisances                   | 26                            |
| Verminous and dirty premises      | 16                            |
| Water supplies                    | 225                           |
| Water courses and ditches         | 42                            |
| Storage of Petroleum              | 25                            |
| Unclassified                      | 194                           |
| Total                             | <u>5,953</u>                  |

Rodent Control 1,570

Grand Total 7,523

## Notices

### Preliminary or Informal

|                            | Public Health | Housing |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------|
| Outstanding on 1st January | 232 ±         | 53      |
| Issued during year         | 277 ±         | 109     |
| Complied with during year  | 260 ±         | 103     |
| Statutory action necessary | 3             | 4       |
| Outstanding 31st December  | 243 ±         | 59      |

- ± including informal notices to owners for conversion of pail closets to water closets

Total Informal Notices issued 386  
Total Informal Notices complied with 363

### Statutory or Formal

|                            | Public Health | Housing |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------|
| Outstanding on 1st January | 0             | 1       |
| Issued during year         | 3             | 4       |
| Complied with during year  | 2             | 3       |
| Outstanding 31st December  | 1             | 2       |

## 5. SHOPS

The provisions of Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950 are enforceable by the District Council. This section provides for the health and comfort of workers in shops, and relates particularly to the provision of satisfactory ventilation, heating and sanitary accommodation at shop premises.

Although there are 267 shops in the District, the great majority are small family businesses, employing no shop assistants, to which the provisions of this section of the Act do not apply.

When inspections are made at food shops, regard is also given to the requirements of the Shops Act; but such inspections are not recorded as Shops Act inspections unless some contravention of the Act is found.

During the year 7 inspections were made under the Shops Act, but no contraventions of the Act were found to exist.

## 6. REGULATED PREMISES

There are no particular premises to which special regulations apply, such as Common Lodging Houses and Offensive Trades, in the District.

Occasionally Canal Boats, found moored alongside the M.O.F. Buffer Depot at Glen Parva on the Grand Union Canal, are inspected under the Public Health Act, 1936, to see that they comply with the Canal Boats Regulations; but no such inspections were made during the year under review.

Details of action with regard to Tents, Vans and Sheds etc. are given in the section in this report under the heading Moveable Dwellings.

## 7. VERMINOUS PREMISES

Only 2 cases of infestation of dwellings by bugs were found and treated during the year.

Disinfestation of 5 flea infested premises was also carried out.

## 8. SMOKE ABATEMENT

No nuisance was observed from the emission of smoke from any chimney stack during the year.

Several complaints were received in connection with the burning of leather scrap, and action was taken for the discontinuance of such practice.

Complaints were also made in respect of offensive odours arising from the cooking of pig food at piggeries in certain parts of the District. Advice was given in each case, and the owners of the respective piggeries warned that statutory action would be taken if they failed to take all practicable measures to abate any nuisance caused by such cooking.

## 9. RODENT CONTROL

For the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the Council maintains a Rodent Destruction Service, employing a Rodent Operator, provided with a light van.

Treatment for the destruction of rats at private dwellings is carried out free of charge as a public service, but full charges are made for work on any business premises or agricultural land.



All premises and properties owned by the Council are regularly surveyed and treated for the destruction of rats and mice when found necessary.

#### Surface Treatments

| Premises                         | Inspections | Treated | Bodies Found | Estimated Kill | Total Visits |
|----------------------------------|-------------|---------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Private Dwellings                | 707         | 156     | 105          | 525            | 1264         |
| Business & Agricultural Premises | 77          | 19      | 244          | 1220           | 210          |
| Council Premises                 | 40          | 16      | 116          | 580            | 96           |
| Sewage Works & Refuse Tip        |             |         |              |                |              |
| Total                            | 824         | 191     | 465          | 2325           | 1570         |

In most cases of rat infestation at private dwellings, the sources of the infestations were found to be in the gardens, particularly in the vicinity of fowl runs.

The shops and factories in the District appear to be comparatively free from rat infestation, but fairly heavy infestations were found on piggeries, small holdings and farm premises.

Regular treatments are necessary at the ten Sewage Disposal Works in the District, which tend to become infested at certain periods, particularly in late Autumn and early Spring.

The Council's Refuse Tip at Enderby is maintained remarkably free from infestation due to the efficient method of controlled tipping, and constant attention.

#### Sewer Treatments

The sewers in fourteen parishes in the District are regularly treated at six-monthly intervals for rodent destruction by baiting in the manholes.

Test baiting of the sewers in Braunstone, Cosby, Glenfield and Glen Parva over several years has shown them to be completely free from infestation.

In the other parishes only certain sections are found to be infested, and the degree of infestation varies, being generally heavier during the winter months.

The treatment carried out during June/July 1951 showed the sewers in Blaby, Croft, Huncote and Kirby Muxloe to be free from infestation on this particular occasion.

#### Sewer Treatment M1/51 (June/July 1951)

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Total number of manholes on sewerage systems in the District | 1021 |
| Number of manholes baited                                    | 120  |
| Number of manholes where bait taken                          | 20   |
| Number of manholes test-baited (no take)                     | 34   |

Where there has been no evidence of infestation in sections of sewers on previous treatments, test-baiting is carried out yearly in approximately one tenth of the manholes in the area.

## FOOD INSPECTION and SUPERVISION

### 10. MILK SUPPLY

#### Dairies

There are 11 registered Dairies in the District, to which 35 visits were made during the year. Structural improvements were necessary to remedy 4 contraventions of the Milk and Dairies Regulations.

Two new dairies, containing pasteurising plants came into operation in the District during the year.

1. Enderby Co-operative Society Ltd.  
Dairy - King Street, Enderby.

This new modern dairy is provided with an H.T.S.T. pasteurising plant capable of treating 300 gallons of milk per hour.

Milk from 11 local farms is treated at this dairy.

2. R. J. Lever

Dairy - Huncote Road, Stoney Stanton.

At this new dairy, milk from two local farms is pasteurised by holder type process

Two dairies were improved and brought up to proper standard.

#### Milk Distribution

The number of Distributors of milk on the Register in the District at the end of 1951 was

|   |    |           |
|---|----|-----------|
| Producer-Retailers<br>(milk produced in District) | 16 |           |
| Distributors<br>(from premises in District)       | 12 |           |
| Distributors<br>(from premises outside District)  | 13 |           |
|   |    | <hr/>     |
| Total   |    | <u>41</u> |

#### Milk Licences

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1949 the Council issued the following licences

##### Dealers Licences

|      |                   |   |   |   |
|------|-------------------|---|---|---|
|      | Tuberculin Tested | - | 5 | (Raw Milk) Regulations)                       |
|      | Pasteurised       | - | 7 | {(Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regulations} |
|      | Sterilised        | - | 2 |   |
| also | T.T.Pasteurised   | - | 1 |   |

### Supplementary Licences

to Distributors retailing milk in the Blaby Rural District from premises outside the District

|                   |   |    |   |
|-------------------|---|----|---|
| Tuberculin Tested | - | 4  | (Raw Milk) Regulations)                       |
| Pasteurised       | - | 10 | { Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regulations) |
| Sterilised        | - | 5  |   |
| also              |   |    |   |
| T.T. Pasteurised  | - | 6  |   |

### Milk Samples

Samples of milk are regularly taken from milk supplies in the District and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

#### Bacteriological Examination of Milk Samples 1951

| Class of Milk          | Samples Taken | Satisfactory | Not Satisfactory |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| (Tuberculin Tested     | 13            | 11           | 2                |
| Designated (Accredited | 4             | 4            | -                |
| (Pasteurised           | 25            | 23           | 2                |
| Ordinary               | 40            | 35           | 5                |
| Totals                 | 82            | 73 (89%)     | 9 (11%)          |

### Biological Examination of Milk Samples

All supplies of raw milk retailed in the District are sampled twice yearly and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for biological examination to determine if any supply is infected with *M. Tuberculosis* or *Brucella Abortus*, the latter being the causal organism of Undulant Fever in man.

Where evidence of living Tubercle Bacilli is found in a sample, notification is immediately sent to the County Medical Officer and the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Veterinary Inspector then investigates, by examining the milch herd from which supply the original sample was obtained, and if necessary takes further samples to determine the offending cow. Any cow found to be infected is removed and slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order 1938.

- 49 - samples were taken during the year
- 45 - samples gave satisfactory negative results
- 2 - samples revealed evidence of *M. Tuberculosis*
- 2 - samples - tests void

In each of the two cases, where evidence of *M. Tuberculosis* was found in the supply, clinical examination by the Veterinary Inspector revealed a cow with a tubercular udder in each of the respective milch herds. Upon these cows being removed and slaughtered, subsequent biological examination of milk samples taken, showed no evidence of further infection.

### 11. ICECREAM

The number of premises registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938 in respect of icecream -

|                                  |   |    |
|----------------------------------|---|----|
| Manufacture and Sale of Icecream | - | 9  |
| Manufacture only                 | - | 0  |
| Retail Sale                      | - | 44 |

Samples of icecream are taken when available throughout the year, but principally during the Summer months and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

At the Laboratory the samples are prepared and subjected to the Methylene Blue Reaction Test, and graded into provisional grades varying from 1 to 4.

Samples in provisional grades 1 and 2 may be considered to be satisfactory.

| Samples Taken | Satisfactory |         | Unsatisfactory |         |
|---------------|--------------|---------|----------------|---------|
|               | Grade 1      | Grade 2 | Grade 3        | Grade 4 |
| 145           | 89           | 41      | 13             | 2       |
|               | 130 (89.7%)  |         | 15 (10.3%)     |         |

The percentage of satisfactory results (89.7%) of samples taken in 1951, was lower than that in 1950 (93.3%). This was due to a number of samples taken at one period in 1951, being reported to be in provisional grades 3 and 4.

Careful investigations were made, and it was found that some delay was taking place between the time the samples were delivered to the Laboratory and the time of testing. This may have affected the results, for upon removing this time lag there was a noticeable improvement in the results.

## 12. MEAT INSPECTION

There is no Regional Abattoir in the District, but there are 18 private slaughterhouses, wherein, during the winter months 'cottagers' pigs for private consumption are slaughtered under licence.

The majority of these pigs are slaughtered over the week-ends, and great difficulty has been experienced in arranging for inspection.

479 such pigs were slaughtered, 223 of which were inspected necessitating 162 visits to the various slaughterhouses.

A suspected outbreak of swine fever at a large piggery in the District necessitated emergency slaughter of 123 pigs, which were inspected on the premises.

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Number of Pigs Killed  | 602   |
| Number inspected   | 346   |
| <u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</u>                                      |       |
| Whole carcasses condemned  | 5     |
| 3 Oedema   |       |
| 1 Septicaemia  |       |
| 1 Decomposition  |       |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned                          | 7     |
| Percentage of number inspected affected with Disease other than tuberculosis | 3.47% |
| <u>Tuberculosis only</u>   |       |
| Whole carcasses condemned  | 1     |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned                          | 12    |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis                | 3.75% |

43 visits were made to Butchers Shops and meat preparing premises.

Improvements were carried out to 3 meat preparing rooms, and 4 butchers shops bringing them up to standard.

### 13. FOODS INSPECTION

423 visits were made to premises where food, other than meat, is kept or prepared for sale, the majority being retail foodshops.

In general whilst the majority of the food shops and registered food preparing premises in the District are up to a standard complying with the requirements of Section 13 Food and Drugs Act, 1938, nevertheless many of the food preparing premises require to be improved to bring them up to a more higher standard. Letters have already been sent to the occupiers in this connection, and an endeavour is being made to have the desirable improvements brought about.

Improvements and extensions were made to 1 bakehouse; 2 fish frying premises, 1 restaurant kitchen, 1 potato-crisp manufacturing premises, 1 confectioners premises, and a retail provision shop were improved during the year.

Situated in the District is a large food store, the main distribution depot of a large combine of wholesale provision merchants. The opinion of your Sanitary Inspectors is often sought concerning the condition of foodstuffs in this depot.

#### Foods surrendered and condemned

#### Weight (approx.)

|              |              |                   |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 109 tins     | Canned Meat  | 786 lbs.          |
| 146 "        | " Vegetables | 247 "             |
| 33 "         | " Fish       | 12 "              |
| 67 "         | " Milk       | 71 "              |
| 8 "          | " Soup       | 7 "               |
| 74 "         | " Fruit      | 112 "             |
| 2 "          | " Jam        | 2 "               |
| 88 Packets   | Cheese       | 32 "              |
| 18 "         | Stuffing     | 6 "               |
| Dates        |              | 30 "              |
| Prunes       |              | 26 "              |
| Sultanas     |              | 29 "              |
| Flour        |              | 6 "               |
| Cheese       |              | 16 "              |
| Sausage      |              | 29 "              |
| Total weight |              | <u>1,411 lbs.</u> |

#### Food Hygiene - Byelaws

The Council has adopted Byelaws made under Section 15, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for securing hygienic conditions in the handling of food, which came into operation on 29th January 1951.

Reasonable publicity has been given and copies have been made available.

No case has yet arisen requiring the enforcement of the byelaws.

### 14. HOUSING

#### (A) New Houses

The following information relating to new houses and Council houses has been obtained from other Departments -



| Houses completed during year             | Type          |           | Average Cost per house | Average rent (Exclusive of rates) |
|--|---------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|  | Prefabricated | Permanent |                        |                                   |
|  | Permanent     |           |                        |                                   |
| Council                                  | -             | 100       | £1,457                 | 15/8d per week                    |
| Private Enterprise                       | -             | 50        | £1,575                 | (£94.10s.0d per annum (6%))       |
| Houses in course of erection at 31.12.54 |               |           |                        |                                   |
| Council                                  | -             | 195       | -                      | -                                 |
| Private Enterprise                       | -             | 10        | -                      | -                                 |

Total Number of Post-War Houses Completed

|                    |   |     |
|--------------------|---|-----|
| Council            | - | 644 |
| Private Enterprise |   | 492 |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Total Number of Applicants for Council Houses at end of year | 732 |
| Number of new applications received during year              | 50  |

(B) Inspection of Dwelling Houses during Year

- (1) Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 411
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932 0 1/2  
(+ All dwellings in District with R.V. £16 and under have already been recorded under Housing Survey)
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 21 +  
(+ These have already been recorded and scheduled for action when circumstances permit)
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation 109

(C) Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices

- (1) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action 16
- (2) Number of dwellings in which housing repairs were carried out to abate nuisances 87

(D) Action under Statutory Powers during Year

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 Housing Act, 1936
  - (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil
  - (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices
    - (a) by owners None
    - (b) By Council in default of owners None

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 4    |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices           |      |
| (a) by Owners  | 3    |
| (b) by Council in default of owners  | None |

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 Housing Act, 1936

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made     | Nil +  |
| (+ Informal Undertakings not to re-let or use for habitation given by owners - 2) |        |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders        | None ± |
| (± Dwellings demolished by Owners by informal action - 2)                         |        |

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 Housing Act, 1936

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil |
|--|-----|

(E) Housing Act, 1936, Part IV Overcrowding

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year       | 11 |
| (2) Number of families dwelling therein                      | 14 |
| (3) Number of persons dwelling therein                       | 88 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year | 1  |
| (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year | 4  |
| (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases                | 25 |

In addition 11 cases of overcrowding, due to insufficient bedroom accommodation, involving 59 persons, were relieved.

(F) Housing Summary

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| (a) Total number of occupied houses in District | 11,971 |
| (b) Total number of Council houses in District  | 1,094  |

(G) Housing Act, 1949

Number of applications for reconditioning grants - 3  
None were granted.

(H) General Remarks on Housing

The Housing returns given above, provide some indication of housing progress in the District, but they are insufficient to give a true picture of the present housing position.

At the present time there are still over 400 dwellings in the District, which by situation, arrangement, sanitary defects and disrepair, are so unfit for human habitation that they have been graded for demolition.

Up to the present it has not been practicable to re-house the occupants and proceed for the demolition of these dwellings, but the time must surely be near when it should be possible to make a start in this direction, dealing with some of the worst houses first, and allocating a proportion of new Council houses for the necessary rehousing.

Over 1,000 houses, by reason of disrepair, but principally due to sanitary defects, may also be classed as being unfit, but could by reconditioning be made quite fit.

Normally these houses could be reconditioned by action under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936, but with the present low controlled rents, it is economically impracticable for any owner to carry out all the necessary works to bring any such house up to a standard fit in every respect for habitation as required by action under Section 9.

Equally so, it would be uneconomical for the Council to carry out such specified works in default of the owner.

It is obvious that some amendment to the Rent and Mortgage (Interest Restrictions) Acts, is long overdue, to allow rents to be increased to enable owners to recondition such dwellings and maintain them in good repair.

In the present circumstances, no statutory action has been taken by the Council under the provisions of Section 9, Housing Act, 1936, for the reconditioning of dwellings; and under the Public Health Act, notices have been confined to work of repair for the abatement of nuisances, with the result that very few houses are being rendered fit in all respects either by informal or formal action.

The conditions laid down in connection with the making of improvement grants under Section 20, Housing Act, 1949, for the reconditioning of houses have created difficulties, and as yet no owner of a tenanted dwelling has made any application for a grant for the reconditioning of a sub-standard dwelling.

Although many complaints are received of alleged overcrowding, principally from applicants for Council houses, upon investigation it is found that in most cases no overcrowding, as defined in the Housing Act, 1936, exists.

Very often however, there is extreme overcrowding of bedroom accommodation, and most unsatisfactory and undesirable conditions prevail.

#### 15. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The restrictions on private building, the high cost of houses, and the difficulty of newly married and childless couples in obtaining a Council house, has no doubt influenced many such families to purchase caravans for use as dwellings.

For such small families the modern caravan provides a very satisfactory home, but the siting of a number of such caravans in a District can give rise to many problems.

Very often the would-be caravan dweller is completely unaware of the law relating to moveable dwellings, and often experiences considerable trouble in finding a site on which to stay, which in every way meets with approval.

Moveable dwellings are controlled by licencing by the Council under Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936, as regards sanitary conditions, and by the Planning Authority under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947 - (Town and County Planning (General Development) Order 1948) in connection with suitability of site and preservation of the amenities in the immediate vicinity.

In 1950, temporary approval under Planning was given to a camping site for caravans in Sharnford, subject to the sanitary conditions being to the satisfaction of the Council. These conditions however, were not complied with, and no licence was issued by the Council under the Public Health Act, with the result that in 1951 the use of this site for caravans was discontinued.

Bearing in mind the need for provision of adequate sanitary arrangements, and careful control and supervision of caravan sites, it has been policy to discourage the setting up of caravan sites, and accordingly no licences have been issued by the Council for the use of land for camping purposes.

The issue of licences under Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936, has been confined to annual licences expiring on the 30th June in each year, to occupiers of single caravans to station their caravans on land within the District.

In each case adequate provision as regards water supply, sanitary accommodation and means of disposal of waste matter is required, and accordingly with single caravans suitably dispersed in suitable areas over the District, the problem of moveable dwellings in the District has so far been met with satisfactorily.

At the end of 1951 there were 17 licenced moveable dwellings stationed in the District.

#### 16. FACTORIES

In addition to Agriculture, the District has a considerable number of industries, there being 147 Factories entered on the Register.

The principal industries and manufactures in the District are -

|                        |                                     |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Boots and Shoes        | Hosiery                             |
| Leather Dressing       | Knitwear                            |
| Leather Washers        | Dyeing                              |
| Toe Puffs              | Cardboard Boxes                     |
| Electrical Components  | Printing                            |
| Photographic Equipment | Pyrotechnics                        |
| Light Engineering      | Food Preparation                    |
| Motor Vehicles Repair  | Joinery and Sawmilling              |
| Oilskin Dressing       | Artificial Stone, Concrete Products |
| Bricks and Tiles       | Concrete Pipes                      |
| Stone Quarrying        | Sand Quarrying                      |

#### Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

| Premises                           | Number on Register | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Factories without Mechanical Power | 9                  | 9           | -               | -                    |
| Factories with Mechanical Power    | 138                | 86          | 5               | -                    |
| Other Premises included under Act  | 7                  | -           | -               | -                    |

In general the sanitary conditions in the factories in the District are good, particulars of defects found are set out below -

#### Cases in which defects were found

| Particulars of Defects         | Found | Remedied | Referred          |                     | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. |
|--------------------------------|-------|----------|-------------------|---------------------|--|
|                                |       |          | To H.M. Inspector | From H.M. Inspector |  |
| Want of cleanliness            | 5     | 5        | -                 | -                   | -  |
| Overcrowding                   | -     | -        | -                 | -                   | -  |
| Unreasonable temperature       | -     | -        | -                 | -                   | -  |
| Inadequate Ventilation         | -     | -        | -                 | -                   | -  |
| Ineffective drainage of floors | -     | -        | -                 | -                   | -  |
| Sanitary conveniences          | -     | -        | -                 | -                   | -  |
| (a) Insufficient               | -     | -        | -                 | -                   | -  |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective    | 3     | 3        | -                 | -                   | -  |
| (c) Not separate for sexes     | -     | -        | -                 | -                   | -  |
| Other offences                 | 2     | 2        | -                 | -                   | -  |
| Total                          | 10    | 10       | -                 | -                   | -  |



As a result of informal action - 4 pail closets were replaced by water closets in one Factory.

#### Fire Escape Certificates

Certificates under Section 34, Factories Act, 1937, were issued by the Council in respect of two Factories certifying the provision of Adequate Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

Informal action commenced in 1950 in respect of one of these factories, necessitated considerable reconstruction and extension to provide the necessary additional means of escape required.

#### Outworkers

Section 110 Factories Act, 1937, requires the occupier of every factory to send to the District Council during the months of February and August each year, copies of a list showing all outworkers so employed by him during the preceding six months.

The lists received show that various firms in the District as well as the City of Leicester and Urban Districts of Hinckley and Wigston, mostly engaged in the making of wearing apparel employ outworkers residing in the Blaby Rural District.

No case of infectious disease was noted at any of the addresses of these outworkers, and no case of work in unwholesome premises was noted.

#### Outworkers - August Return 1951

| Nature of Work         | Outworkers employed<br>by firms in District | Outworkers employed by<br>firms outside District |
|------------------------|---|--|
| <u>Wearing Apparel</u> |   |  |
| Hosiery                | 8   | 130  |
| Boots and Shoes        | 3   | 25   |
| Knitwear               | -   | 8  |
| Gloves                 | -   | 2  |
| Corsets                | -   | 9  |
|                        | 11  | 174  |
| <u>Umbrellas</u>       |   | 2  |
| Paper Receptacles      | 14  | 14   |
| Total                  | 25  | 190<br>196                                       |
| Total                  | 215 001                                     |  |

There were no cases of firms in the District defaulting in sending lists of outworkers to the Council.

#### 17. PETROLEUM.

The Council is the authority for the licencing and control of Petroleum Stores under the provisions of the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

Petroleum Spirit is stored principally in the District in underground tanks, generally at garages and petrol filling stations, but Petroleum Mixtures, which are commonly used in connection with Boot and Shoe Manufacture, and at Spray-painting Plants are stored at various premises in the District in compartments above ground.

In the interests of public safety it is essential that such storage places be of approved construction to minimise the risk of fire or explosion, and in this direction much work has been done during the year in having present storage arrangements improved.



Before any licence is issued by the Council in respect of any new petroleum store or underground tank, the installation has to comply in every respect with the proper specifications as required by the Act; all underground tanks being surrounded by sand, contained in a properly lined pit, and the installation tested under pressure.

Number of Petroleum Licences issued 1951

61

Total fees collected in respect of same

£45. 10s. 0d.

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